

Halja Duplak, interviewed by Geo and Cho on

14 August 1964,

lives at 64 Quincy St, Passaic NJ

arrived from KOSZALIN, Poland, June 27, 1954 via Gdynia and Montreal.

She was born ca. 1931. Appearance --blonde, 5'4" tall, weighs about 150 lbs. looks like a heavy-set, peasant girl.

She is married, and a mother of four (two and two ?)

She goes under her maiden name, and would not say what her married name is, because she apparently was allowed to come here only without her husband, whom she hopes to bring to this country at a later date. The husband had spent one year in jail for an alleged shortage of grain in the warehouse which he manages, and apparently the US authorities vetoed his emigration because of his prison record.

(GL has details on their household, property etc.)

Some pertinent information Mrs. D related:

-- A complete Red Army garrison is stationed near Bielogora where there is an airport. They also have anti-aircraft equipment there, she says.

-- Local population apparently is envious of the Red soldiers "who have everything". Local people don't do to them, but some of the Ukrainian soldiers in the garrison come to the villages to see the girls.

SECRET

File: 74-124-29/3

28 August 1964

SECRET

--During the Hungarian revolution up to seven train trains used to pass through Poland from the Soviet Union. People at that time were expecting a revolt in Poland, and everyone who was far from home was hurrying back to be "near the family."

-- Some ~~young~~ men from the forest are now serving in all branches of the gov't, including the police. Some are party members "because it is the only way to get and keep a job". Local people know about these "people from the forest" but say nothing.

-- There is sympathy for Gomułka because the people know that it is Khrushchev who puts the screws on him.

-- There are only two things the people appreciate in present-day Poland: free education and free medical aid. There is a PS added to the latter: you have to give the doctor an extra 1000 zlotys to get a better medical attention.

-- To get meat, one has to stand in line from 5 am until 1 am when the store opens. There is also meat on the market (same prices as in state stores) twice a week.

-- Poles on the regained territories don't feel too secure, and as soon as they are able, go back to Poland proper. They feel that the western territories will go back to Germany some day.

-- One said life is better for Ukrainians in Poland these days. Another said that Poles are still using the old German ports. Colonization is very widespread.

-- "I could hear the American radio (Free Europe) better over there than I can here."

SECRET

additional info on Halia Duplak

-- Poles who have settled in the western region, the regained territories, and who have originally come from east of the River Bug, are referred to as "Ukrainians" by the local Poles. Interestingly enough, these "Ukrainian" Poles feel closer ties to the Ukrainians than to the Poles, and there are a number of cases of intermarriage between the "Ukrainian" Poles and the Ukrainians.

-- To have 15 hectares of land a farmer must pay the state one cubic metre of grain, or equivalent in cash (which the farmers prefer) plus an allotment of meat.

-- pork sells for 32-35 zlotys per pound.

beef -- 32 zlotys

a farmer gets 18 zlotys per pound of pork (live weight)

-- a cow costs from 7 to 12 thousand zlotys

a horse 8 - 15 thousand zlotys

by comparison, a good man's suit costs 2,000 zlotys.

-- the richest farmer in the area "owned" 20 hectares of land

7 cows

4 horses

c chickens, geese, etc.

-- the state gladly rents out the land, but for a limited term.

The trick then is to have it taken over by a member of the family for another term, and so on.